

VZCZCXRO7456

OO RUEHAST RUEHFL RUEHLA RUEHMRE RUEHPOD RUEHROV RUEHSK RUEHSR
DE RUEHC #7832/01 0290035
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O R 290026Z JAN 09
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 7398
INFO ORG FOR SECURITY CO OP IN EUR COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 007832

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OSCE](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [GG](#) [EU](#)

SUBJECT: OSCE/PERMANENT COUNCIL: RESPONSE TO EU PRESIDENT,
CZECH FM SCHWARZENBERG

11. Post is authorized to present the following statement at
the January 29 Permanent Council meeting in Vienna.

Begin text:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Permanent Council,
Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg. The United States and the
Czech Republic have a close bilateral relationship, and we
also enjoy a close partnership with the European Union based
on shared values and a strategic outlook. We look forward to
building on both relationships to address the many challenges
facing the OSCE in the coming months. Some of these dovetail
well with your country's priorities for its EU Presidency.

An issue of immediate concern is Georgia. First off, I would
like to take this opportunity to welcome the work of our
Chairman-in-Office in helping smooth the way for resumption
of gas deliveries to South Ossetia, and hope the commitment
for follow-on work on water deliveries will prove just as
successful.

Nevertheless, the security situation in Georgia remains
highly unstable. While the August 12 cease-fire and the
September 8 agreement ended the active phase of fighting in
the war, we continue to hear reports of kidnappings,
banditry, and ethnic cleansing, and attacks on Georgian
officials and property. Human Rights Watch recently called
attention to violations of international law by all parties
during the August conflict, including indiscriminate and
disproportionate attacks by both Georgian and Russian forces
and South Ossetian forces' campaign of deliberate destruction
of ethnic Georgian villages in South Ossetia. Human Rights
Watch also reported Russia's failure to ensure public order
and safety in the areas of Georgia that remain under its
control.

These failures underscore the need for further OSCE
engagement and an OSCE monitoring presence with uninhibited
access to the whole of Georgia. Now is the time for more --
not less -- international engagement to help prevent
violence, identify ongoing cease-fire violations, deter human
rights abuses, and facilitate humanitarian assistance. In
that respect, we value highly the role the EU Monitoring
Mission is able to play in ensuring transparency and
providing an additional international presence. We also
greatly appreciate the contribution by EU Special
Representative Morel to launching and sustaining the Geneva
process. We are convinced the OSCE continues to have a vital
role to play in restoring stability and security in the
region, and trust that other delegations share this view.

As we noted last week, we stand ready to work with the
Chairmanship to ensure a continued OSCE presence in Georgia,
and are prepared to support the Chairmanship's basic
approach, while remaining sensitive to the need to support
Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its
internationally recognized borders. Foreign Minister
Schwarzenberg, we would appreciate hearing more about how the
Presidency and the EU as a whole views the OSCE's evolving
role and the added value it provides on the ground, and how

OSCE activities fit in the larger picture of EU priorities for the region.

We also welcome the Czech Presidency's emphasis on energy security as one of its priority issues. The OSCE affirmed its commitments on energy security in the 2003 Maastricht Strategy Document and in the 2006 Ministerial Council's Decision on Energy Security Dialogue. We believe that the OSCE can usefully supplement what is occurring in other fora in this critical area.

The OSCE has a role to play in fostering an exchange on energy security, drawing from the collective knowledge base of participating States with a variety of interests and concerns. The OSCE brings together energy producers, consumers, and transit countries, all of which have roles in securing supply and transit, protecting infrastructure, managing demand, and bringing new technologies to market. The OSCE should continue with the commitments made in 2003 and 2006 by engaging in activities that will help us identify where our interests converge and what policies and instruments we can bring to bear that will enhance energy security for us all.

As in the past, we will work with the European Union to strengthen all aspects of the human dimension. In line with the spirit of Helsinki, the European Union and the United

STATE 00007832 002 OF 002

States, together with other OSCE participating States, must resolutely support the core values of this organization -- the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of democratic institutions and the rule of law. These commitments serve as the foundation for peace and security in the OSCE region.

We also welcome the Czech EU Presidency's emphasis on fortifying links with the EU's eastern neighbors through your 'Eastern Partnership Initiative.' These countries benefit significantly from increased contact with EU and OSCE partners. This important proposal reinforces our view that the previous enlargements by the EU and NATO over the past decade have made a significant contribution to stability and prosperity in Europe. The integration of additional countries into these euro-Atlantic structures has not come at the expense of any other, neighboring country or region, but has strengthened stability, security, and prosperity for us all.

In these and other areas, we look forward to continuing to work with our EU partners to update and vitalize our existing security and cooperation agenda that have been nurtured by the OSCE over the years.

Mr. Minister, we wish you and your mission here all the best. Please be assured of the full cooperation of the United States during the Czech presidency.

Thank you.

End text.
CLINTON